

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please find below a listing of all pending claims. The statuses of the claims are set forth in parentheses. For those currently amended claims, underlined text indicates insertions and ~~striketrough~~ text (and/or double-brackets) indicates deletions.

1.(Currently Amended) A work support method comprising:  
storing skill information of workers and information related to an end date of a training which is being received by each worker in a skill information storage unit;  
storing information of each work item with respect to a work in a work item information storage unit;  
storing worker information related to a worker to be registered for each work item in a work information storage unit;  
extracting, with respect to each stored work item in response to a work order, worker information related to a worker having a skill capable of performing each work item, based on the skill information of workers stored in the skill information storage unit, and re-extracting, upon no worker information is extractable for a work item, worker information related to ~~[[a]]~~ any worker who will have a skill capable of performing said work item by a time when said work item of the work order is generated, based on the information related to ~~the stored information related to the~~ end date of the training stored in the skill information storage unit; and  
storing data of the extracted worker with respect to each work item in the work item information storage unit.

2.(Previously Cancelled)

3.(Previously Presented) The work support method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said extracting extracts worker information of a first worker to actually perform each work item, and worker information of a second worker to assist the

first worker, and stores the extracted work information of the first and second workers in the work information storage unit.

4.(Previously Presented) The work support method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said extracting extracts worker information of the second worker having a skill comparable to that of the first worker, by referring to the information stored in the skill information storage unit.

5.(Currently Amended) A work support method to be implemented in a work support apparatus, said work support method comprising:

storing skill information of workers and information related to an end date of a training which is being received by each worker in a skill information storage unit which is accessible by the work support apparatus;

storing work item information with respect to a work in a work item information storage unit which is accessible by the work support apparatus;

storing worker information related to a worker to be registered for each work item with respect to the work in a work information storage unit which is accessible by the work support apparatus;

extracting, with respect to each work item stored in the work item information storage unit in response to a work order, worker information related to a worker having a skill capable of performing each work item, based on the skill information of workers stored in the skill information storage unit, and re-extracting, upon no worker information is extractable for a work item, worker information related to any worker who will have a skill capable of performing said work item by a time when said work item of the work order is generated, based on the information related to the end date of the training stored in the skill information storage unit; and

storing data of the extracted worker with respect to each work item in the work item information storage unit.

6.(Currently Amended) A work support apparatus comprising:

a skill information storage unit configured to store skill information of workers and information related to an end date of a training which is being received by each worker;

a work item information storage unit configured to store work item information with respect to a work;

a work information storage unit configured to store worker information [[of]] related to a worker to be registered for each work item with respect to the work;

a worker extracting unit configured to extract, with respect to each work item stored in the work item information storage unit in response to a work order, worker information related to a worker having a skill capable of performing each work item, based on the skill information of workers stored in the skill information storage unit, and to re-extract, upon no worker information is extractable for a work item, worker information of [[a]] any worker who will have a skill capable of performing said work item by a time when said work item of the work order is actually generated, based on the information related to the end date of the training stored in the skill information storage unit; and

a storing unit configured to store data of the extracted worker with respect to each work item in the work item information storage unit.

7.(Previously Cancelled)

8.(Previously Presented) The work support apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said worker extracting unit extracts worker information related to a first worker to actually perform each work item, and worker information related to a second worker to assist the first worker, and stores the extracted worker information of the first and second workers in the work information storage unit.

9.(Previously Presented) The work support apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said worker extracting unit extracts worker information of the second worker having a skill comparable to that of the first worker, by referring to the information stored in the skill information storage unit.

10.(Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a work support program for causing a computer to carry out a work support operation, said work support program comprising:

- a skill information storage procedure causing the computer to store skill information of workers and information related to an end date of a training which is being received by each worker in a skill information storage unit;

- a work item information storage procedure causing the computer to store work item information with respect to a work in a work item information storage unit;

- a work information storage procedure causing the computer to store worker information related to a worker to be registered for each work item with respect to the work in a work information storage unit;

- a worker extracting procedure causing the computer to extract, with respect to each work item stored in the work item information storage unit in response to a work order, worker information related to a worker having a skill capable of performing each work item, based on the skill information of workers stored in the skill information storage unit, and to re-extract, upon no worker information is extractable for a work item, worker information related to any worker who will have a skill capable of performing said work item by a time when said work item of the work order is generated, based on the information related to the end date of the training stored in the skill information storage unit; and

- a storing procedure causing the computer to store data of the extracted worker with respect to each work item in the work item information storage unit.

11.(Previously Cancelled)

12.(Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 10, wherein said worker extracting procedure causes the computer to extract worker information related to a first worker to actually perform each work item, and worker information related to a second worker to assist the first worker, and to store the extracted worker information related to the first and second workers in the work information storage unit.

13.(Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein said worker extracting procedure causes the computer to extract worker information of the second worker having a skill comparable to that of the first worker, by referring to the information stored in the skill information storage unit.